

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 06707 070949Z
ACTION EA-12

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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 6707

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EMIN, ITC, MY
SUBJ: TIN

1. IN ARTICLE APPEARING IN BOTH THE BUSINESS TIMES AND THE NEW STRAITS TIMES, A. RAHIM AKI, THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATES OF MALYA CHAMBR OF MINES AND OF THE GOM CONTROLLED MALAYSIAN MINING CORPORATIN, WAS QUOTED AS CALLING FOR MALAYSIA TO TAKE A TOUGHER STAND IN THE FORTHCOMING ITC MEETINGS IN LONDON. RAHIM, WHO WILL REPRESENT THE INDUSTRY ON THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION TO LONDON, EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT MALAYSIA'S STANCE TO DATE HAS BEEN TO MODERATE AND OUGHT TO BE STRENGTHENED. HE BEMOANED THE PASSAGE OF THE TIME BEFORE THE US JOINED THE TIN AGREEMENT WHEN THINGS WERE DECIEDE THROUGH CONSENSUS. THE ATMOSPHERE TODAY IS TENSE AND VIEWS ARE BADLY POLARIZED." UNSURPRISINGLY, THE GOM INFLUENCED NEW STRAITS TIMES ALSO CARRIED AN EDITORIAL ENDORSING RAHIM'S VIEWS.

2. COMMENT: THE RELEASE OF THIS STATEMENT WAS OBVIOUSLY DSINGED TO COINCIDE WITH THE FORTHCOMING ITC TALKS IN
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LONDON. IT IS ALSO INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT RAHIM IS A REMARKABLE ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE CNAMBER ON MAY 25 (COPY PROVIDED TO US. DELEGATION AT THE EPRP MEETING IN BANGKOK) BASICALLY LAID THE BLAME FOR THE DECLINE OF MALAYSIA'S TIN INDUSTRY ATTHE FEET OF THE GOM. WE HAVE SINCE HEARD FROM CHAMBER SOURCES THAT OFFICIAL CIRCLES WERE IRRITATED BY THIS SPEECH AND WERE ACCUSING THE CHAMBER, ONLY HAL IN

JEST, OF BEING THE "RUNNING DOGS FOR THE AMERICANS." AS A
RESULT, RAHIM WAS NO DOUBT INTERESTED IN BOLSTERING HIS
NATIONALISTIC CREDENTIALS. A FURTHER POSSIBLE REASON FOR THIS SPEECH
IS THAT ELECTIONS ARE BEING HELD IN MALAYSIA TOMORROW AND
A NUMBER OF TOUGH PARLIAMENTARY RACES ARE FORECAST IN PERAK, THE
LEADING TIN MINING STATE. NO DOUBT A FIRM STATEMENT OF TOUGHNESS
OF INTENT BY SOMEONE CLOSE TO THE GOM MIGHT SIT WELL WITH
THOSE VOTERS WHO DERIVE THEIR LIVELIHOOD FROM TIN. EMBASSY
BELIEVES THAT RAHIM IS A KEY FIGURE IN MALAYSIAN TIN POLICY
DELEIBERATINS AND BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF
WALTER LENAHAH COULD MEET WITH HIM FOR A PRIVATE EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS. IF THAT IS POSSIBLE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING
THE OUTCOME.
MILLER

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